

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

First Things First

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of First Things First, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Wednesday December 12, 2007 at 4000 N. Central, Ste. 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012. Chair Mathis Basha called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Gary Pasquinelli, Pamela Powell, Paul Luna, Cecil Patterson, Gene Thompson and Steve Lynn

Ex-Officio Members:

Susan Gerard, Tracy Wareing and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Rhian Evans Allvin and Vivian Saunders

Consent Agenda

Upon the Motion of Member Luna and Seconded by Member Lynn, the Board adopted the Consent Agenda. The items on the Consent Agenda include the Minutes of the November 27, 2007 Board Meeting.

Call to the Public

Dr. Albert Jacobson, Chief of Out-Patient Pediatrics at Phoenix Children's Hospital and the Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Jacobson requested that the Board consider medical issues related to childhood development. After the Arizona Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics survey of Arizona pediatricians, Dr. Jacobson listed four of the key issues on the survey: 1) accessibility and quality of the early childhood intervention program; 2) obesity; 3) promoting early family interventions for literacy; and 4) promoting early child care consultants and facilities.

Rebecca Ruffner, with Healthy Families Arizona, presented the Board members a research review of Healthy Families America. Ms. Ruffner stated that Healthy Families Arizona has received full accreditation for their statewide system, providing home visitation for at-risk young parents and their children throughout the state of Arizona.

Needs and Assets Report

Linda Cannon, consultant to the Board, presented the background and framework of Building Bright Futures, the 2007 Statewide Needs and Assets Report. Allison Landy, Policy Specialist for First Things First, presented to the Board the report overview and technical changes.

A Motion was made by Member Pasquinelli that the Needs and Assets Assessment Report be modified to include the technical corrections identified and presented by the staff. Seconded by Member Luna. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Pasquinelli that pages 7 through 15, the “Executive Summary”, be removed and replaced with an “Introduction”, marked as Revision A. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Pasquinelli that a new Executive Summary be prepared and brought back to the board for review and approval no later than January 4, 2008. Seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Pasquinelli that pages 91 through 95, “Arizona’s Opportunity, the Right System for Bright Futures”, be replaced with a closing statement marked as Revision B. Seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Lynn to include the names of the Board Members in the report. Seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Pasquinelli that the Needs and Assets Assessment Report as modified by this Board be adopted and provided to the public as soon as practical. Seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Elements within the Early Childhood System

Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director of First Things First, revisited the conceptual model represented by a timepiece, of the Arizona Early Childhood System. The timepiece now incorporates the goals of First Things First, with the clock work gears and sweeping hands representing the program content and infrastructure.

Presentation on Accountability and Evaluation

Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director of First Things First, informed the Board of the fundamental role of accountability and evaluation in the early childhood development system. (A copy of the presentation by Ms. Woodhouse is attached.)

Presentation on Family Support

K. Vilay, Policy Specialist for First Things First, informed the Board of the importance of positive interactions between young children and the adults in their lives, and the critical role of literacy-rich experiences. (A copy of the presentation by Ms. Vilay is attached.)

Presentation on Communications

Nicole Stewart, Assistant Director of Communications, informed the Board that the goal of communications is to increase public information about the importance of early childhood development and health. (A copy of the presentation by Ms. Stewart is attached.)

Presentation on Tribal Issues

Katie Stevens, Policy Specialist for First Things First, informed the Board of fostering an understanding of Tribal and State relations in the area of early childhood and health issues. Ms. Stevens highlighted issues around multicultural and inclusive environment and described Tribal and State child care collaborations. (A copy of the presentation by Ms. Stevens is attached.)

Presentation on Special Needs

Allison Landy, Policy Specialist for First Things First, informed the board about the current key issues related to children with special needs, and outlined how issues of special needs integrate with the goals of First Things First. Ms. Landy discussed the importance of early identification and screening as a fundamental strategy for the promotion of children's healthy growth and development. (A copy of the power point presentation by Allison is attached.)

Karen Woodhouse closed the presentations by presenting a visual of the integration of all content areas.

Update on Application Process for Regional Partnership Council Members

Michelle Katona, Assistant Director of Regional Councils for First Things First, informed the Board of the timelines and processes for the application for regional partnership council members. Ms. Katona stated that the announcement would be publicized on Friday, December 14, 2007, and that the application would be available online as well.

Strategic Planning Update

Elliott Hibbs, Director of First Things First, stated that the strategic planning meeting for the First Things First Board will be held January 22nd and 23rd and will also include a dinner the evening of January 21st to introduce the framework for the planning process. Carla Carter has been selected to facilitate the January meeting.

Governor Napolitano Presentation

Governor Napolitano congratulated the Board on being one year old this month. Governor Napolitano stated that she supports the efforts of the Board and urged First Things First to keep moving forward. Governor Napolitano gave an overview of First Things First participation in the P-20 Council. She stated that the Board is the "P" in the P-20 (that is 0 to 5), which will help ensure every young child in our state, being from all backgrounds, is ready for kindergarten by age five. In closing, Governor Napolitano thanked the Board for work they have done, and more importantly, the work they are about to do.

Chair Mathis Basha thanked Governor Napolitano for her leadership and support. Chair Mathis Basha stated that this was a special day as the Needs and Assets Assessment Report had been adopted and gave an outline of the report. Chair Mathis Basha mentioned that the strategic planning session in January will assist the Board in clearly establishing where the Board's limited amount of money will have the greatest effect, and where it can partner most effectively to maximize funds on behalf of the children and families of Arizona.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 22 and 23, 2008, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mathis Basha adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.